

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 21, 2003. Claims 25 and 27-34 are pending in this application. Claim 26 has been canceled, and its allowable subject matter has been incorporated into independent Claims 25, 28, and 32, which are now allowable along with their dependent claims. Claims 27 has been amended to depend from Claim 25. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

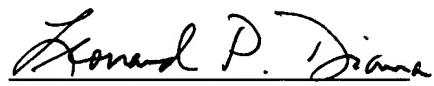
The Office Action rejected Claims 25 and 28-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,937,420 (Karow et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,883,637 (Nakayama et al.). This rejection is moot in light of the adding of the allowable subject matter from canceled Claim 26 into independent Claims 25, 28, and 32.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and the allowance of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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